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September 7, 2016

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Cynthia A. Harding, M.P.H.
Interim Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia A. Harding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "H" and "A".

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO EXTEND EIGHTEEN SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS**

This is to notify you that the Department of Public Health (DPH) intends to request Board approval to extend the term of eighteen (18) sole source contracts with various HIV/AIDS care service providers for the provision of services to residents living with HIV/AIDS in Los Angeles County (LAC). The eighteen (18) contracts are six (6) oral health care; six (6) medical care coordination (MCC); two (2) transitional case management (TCM); one (1) legal; one (1) benefit specialty services (BSS); one (1) mental health, psychotherapy; and one mental health, psychiatry (1).

This notice is being sent in accordance with revised Board Policy 5.100, which states that County of Los Angeles (County) departments that intend to request Board approval to extend the term of an existing sole source Contract must provide at least (6) six months advance written notice to your Board.

Background

Oral Health Care Services

Oral health care services are prophylactic, diagnostic, and therapeutic services provided to eligible clients with a written confirmation of HIV disease. Since Ryan White Program (RWP) Year 19, DPH has been allocating additional resources to oral health care services to accommodate increased patient need, due largely to the changes in the state's Denti-Cal program. RWP is the payer of last resort for LAC's eligible HIV-positive population in need of oral health care services.

On May 26, 2009, your Board approved two (2) sole source contracts with AltaMed Health Services Corporation (AltaMed) and East Valley Community Health Center

(EVCHC) to support the expansion of oral health care services to individuals living with HIV/AIDS in LAC.

On May 1, 2012 and February 19, 2013, respectively, your Board approved four (4) sole source contracts with JWCH Institute, Inc. (JWCH), Watts Healthcare Corporation (WHC), AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), and The Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) to support the expansion of oral health care services.

The County's current oral health care system is supported by 13 providers: AHF, AMH, AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA), EVCHC, El Proyecto del Barrio, Inc. (EPDB), JWCH, Northeast Valley Health Corporation (NEVHC), University of Southern California (USC), St. Mary's Medical Center (St. Mary), Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc. (TTC), UCLA, WHC, and Long Beach Comprehensive Health Center.

Medical Care Coordination Services

The purpose of MCC services is to reduce or eliminate patients' barriers to achieving viral suppression and maximize health outcomes by providing case management and other wrap-around services on-site. MCC services were not included in the Request for Proposals (RFP) that DPH released in March 2010 for ambulatory outpatient medical (AOM) services because neither the LAC Commission on HIV (COH) Standards of Care nor the staffing requirements for MCC services were completed. Since then, the COH has included in the Standards of Care a requirement that all AOM sites must offer MCC services. In order to comply with this mandate, DPH entered into contracts for MCC services with 19 agencies identified under the RFP to provide AOM services. Thirteen of those agencies had been providing MCC services under previous contracts, and did not require a sole source contract. The remaining six agencies were not previously funded by DPH to provide MCC type services, and required sole source contracts.

On November 20, 2012, your Board approved six (6) sole source contracts with Central City Community Health Center (CCHC), Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA), EPDB, Los Angeles LGBT Center (LGBT), St. John's Well Child and Family Center (St. John's Well), and Venice Family Clinic (VFC) for the provision of MCC services.

Transitional Case Management Services

TCM services enhance the delivery of HIV/AIDS care and treatment referral and linkage services for HIV positive inmates from all eight Service Planning Areas (SPA) currently incarcerated in County jail facilities. As the clients exit County jail facilities, they are linked to LAC's HIV/AIDS care, treatment, and prevention continuum of care.

On February 24, 2009, your Board approved two (2) sole source contracts with the Center for Health Justice, Inc. (CHJ) and Public Health Foundation Enterprises, Inc. (PHFE) to enhance the delivery of HIV/AIDS care and treatment referral and linkage services for HIV-positive inmates in LAC. These additional sole source providers were added as a result of the COH recommendation to increase the allocation of funding to

these services. DPH also supports three other providers providing TCM services in the jail.

Legal Services

HIV/AIDS legal services offer appropriate legal consultation, support, and intervention directly necessitated by legal issues that can be associated with an individual's HIV status. These issues include discrimination in housing, employment, and benefits, among other issues.

On December 18, 2012, your Board approved a sole source contract with Public Counsel to provide legal services to HIV/AIDS clients due to the closure of HIV/AIDS Legal Services Alliance (HALSA) in May 2012 at a point where dozens of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) had unresolved legal issues. As part of their client transition plan, HALSA referred all of its clients to Public Counsel.

Benefit Specialty Services and Mental Health Services (Psychiatry and Psychotherapy)

BSS are client-centered activities that facilitate a client's access to public benefits and programs supported by funding streams other than the RWP. BSS focus on assisting a client's entry into and movement through care service systems outside of the RWP-funded service delivery network.

Mental health, psychiatric treatment services seek to alleviate biologically based psychiatric symptoms that can interfere with the everyday functioning of individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Services are for patients experiencing acute mental health distress related to a patient's HIV/AIDS diagnosis, which warrants the prescription of psychotropic medications.

Mental health, psychotherapy services are for people living with HIV/AIDS who have been diagnosed with a mental illness and are in need of psychological and counseling treatment services. These services enhance the clients' ability to adhere to HIV/AIDS medical care and treatment, return the client to a state of emotional and psychological well-being that enables him or her to function in society, and meet the ordinary demands of everyday life.

On December 1, 2015, your Board approved three (3) sole source contracts with JWCH for BSS and Mental Health services (psychiatry and psychotherapy) as a result of cessation of services by the City of Pasadena (COP) Public Health Department. These services previously provided by COP under DPH were transitioned to JWCH, with the exception of HIV testing services, which remained with COP.

Since their initial inception, all of these above-mentioned providers' contracts have undergone multiple amendments. These amendments include term extensions, adjustments to funding allocations, and revisions to their scopes of work.

Justification to Extend 18 Sole Source Contracts

HIV/AIDS care and treatment services for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) are vital in order to optimize patient health and help reduce the transmission and spread of HIV/AIDS.

Extension of the six (6) oral health services contracts with AHF, AltaMed, EVCHC, JWCH, UCLA, and WHC will allow the continuation of vital oral health care services to residents living with HIV/AIDS in LAC. Access to oral health evaluation, prophylaxis, and care significantly improves oral health and quality of life for PLWHA. Health Resources and Services Administration guidelines and the County's Standards of Care for people living with HIV require, at a minimum, an annual comprehensive oral examination. As a result, in 2012 the COH approved increased investment in oral health care services. The COH continues to support provision of these vital services to LAC's HIV positive indigent residents. Extending these six oral health care contracts will minimize client wait time for receiving dental services. Prior to DPH entering into the six (6) sole source oral health contracts, clients experienced delayed appointment times due to limited availability of care.

Extension of the six (6) MCC contracts with CCHC, CHLA, EPDB, LGBT, St. John's Well, and VFC will allow the continuation of MCC services, which are a required component of receiving AOM services. MCC services are required by the COH Standards of Care to be provided to all eligible patients in LAC with HIV/AIDS, regardless of the payer of medical care. Additionally, the extension will ensure all eligible clients have access to MCC services. Ensuring access to MCC services at locations that offer AOM services will fulfill the COH requirement and support the full implementation of the HIV medical home model of care that includes availability of supportive services.

Extension of the two (2) TCM contracts with CHJ and PHFE will allow the continuation of the referral and linkage services of HIV-positive inmates to HIV services upon release. The COH continues to allocate resources to support TCM services.

Extension of the legal contract with Public Counsel will allow the continuation of free legal services for PLWHA. There is no other provider funded for these services, therefore, not extending these services would create a service gap for clients with active unresolved legal issues. Currently there are 101 clients receiving 1,000 hours of free legal services under the existing contract with Public Counsel.

Extension of the three (3) contracts with JWCH for BSS, psychiatry, and psychotherapy services will allow those HIV/AIDS clients living in SPA 3 of the County to continue receiving those services that are being provided by JWCH as a result of the cessation of services formerly delivered by COP. These services were assumed by JWCH in December 2015.

Impact to DPH if the 18 Sole Source Contracts are Not Extended

If these contracts are not extended, client care and retention would be impacted. Clients in some parts of LAC served by these contracts may drop out of care and clients may also experience delays in access to care. These providers are serving in the most impacted areas of the County and not extending these services in those areas would exacerbate the health and access to care disparities of clients receiving care in the County.

Alternative Plan

DPH will be extending a large portfolio of current HIV/AIDS care contracts in February 2017 to provide an array of HIV/AIDS care services including, but not limited to: oral health, MCC, TCM, BSS, and mental health services to PLWHA in LAC. However, some areas of the County would experience limited services if all 18 sole source contracts are not extended. DPH would have to amend existing non-sole source contracts with additional resources to cover the gaps of service delivery if services are not continued through the sole source contracted providers. These services remain in high demand by clients and non-continuation of these contracts would impact clients throughout the County. DPH has a schedule of solicitations that include RFPs for the above-mentioned service categories, but to eliminate gaps in service, DPH must continue to extend these services until the completion of the RFP process. The mental health RFP was released on June 28, 2016.

Timeline

The Board letter requesting approval to extend these contracts is projected for a Board meeting in early February 2017. DPH is requesting the above sole source contracts be extended with eighteen (18) providers for an additional two years through February 28, 2019, with the exception of mental health and legal services, which will require only a 12-18 month extension, and delegated authority to extend the term for an additional year, if necessary, to allow for sufficient time to initiate new services under the scheduled RFP for release in summer 2017. The two year extension will allow DPH sufficient time to develop a number of scheduled RFPs for a host of other services including, but not limited, to TCM and BSS.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

CAH:fs
#03703

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors